

Chapter 7
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT
4/2006

GOAL 1:	To provide recreational opportunities and open space for the current and future residents and visitors of Gulf County.
OBJECTIVE 1:	Gulf County will ensure that publicly-owned recreation facilities are physically accessible to all County residents by implementing Policies 1.1 through 1.4.
POLICY 1.1:	Gulf County will provide access for the physically handicapped to all County-owned parks.
POLICY 1.2:	Gulf County will maintain all access corridors to County-owned parks including sidewalks, streets, bike paths, and stairways.
POLICY 1.3:	The majority of physical public access to beaches and shorelines in Gulf County will continue to be provided by the State through the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.
POLICY 1.4:	When established public access sites are removed from public use due to coastal development, the developer must provide an alternative public access route.
OBJECTIVE 2:	Gulf County will continue to implement a program to coordinate public and private resources to meet recreation demands.
POLICY 2.1:	The Gulf County Parks Advisory Committee will facilitate the coordination of public and private recreational resources.
POLICY 2.2:	Gulf County will coordinate with School Boards and developers to maximize land use as it relates to recreation facilities and school sitting.

OBJECTIVE 3:	Gulf County will ensure that parks and recreation facilities are adequately and efficiently provided by implementing Policies 3.1 and 3.2.
POLICY 3.1:	Gulf County hereby adopts a recreation level of service of 5 acres of land per 1,000 people in unincorporated Gulf County
POLICY 3.2:	The expansion of recreation and open spaces to include the expansion and development of green spaces and trails to be used for preservation of natural resources and public recreation which may include, but not limited to providing access parking, nature trails, picnic facilities, restroom, wildlife observation, access to beaches, bays, rivers, and additional waterfront access, ultimately linking together the preservation and recreation spaces of Gulf County within the scope of financial and physical resources.
OBJECTIVE 4:	Gulf County will implement minimum requirements for the provision of open space by public agencies and private enterprises.
POLICY 4.1:	Gulf County will maintain an inventory of designated open space sites to ensure that the needs of County residents are met.
POLICY 4.2:	Gulf County will ensure the provision of open space by enforcing the requirements of the County adopted land development codes.